

Remarks

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 29, 30, 35 and 44-71 are currently pending. Claims 30, 57 and 62 have been withdrawn by the Examiner as being drawn to nonelected inventions. Claims 1-28, 31-34 and 36-43 have been cancelled.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the personal interview conducted on May 22, 2009, and for his many helpful comments. Based on the Examiner's comments, claims 29, 35, 58 and 60 have been amended to delete paralogues of XRCC2, XRCC3 and RAD51 and the phrase "capable of gene conversion." Claims 29, 35, 55, 56, 58 and 60 have been amended. Support for the amendments to the claims can be found in the specification as filed, at least, for example, at page 8, lines 12-18 and at page 5, lines 13-14. New claims 63-71 have been added. Support for new claims 63-64 can be found in the specification as filed, at least, for example, at Example 1 at page 14, line 19. Support for new claims 65-66 can be found in the specification as filed, at least, for example, at page 8, lines 14-15. Support for new claims 67-68 can be found in the specification as filed, at least, for example, at page 8, line 13. Support for new claims 69-70 can be found in the specification as filed, at least, for example, at page 8, lines 12-18. Support for new claim 71 can be found in the specification as filed, at least, for example, at page 4, line 5. No new matter enters by way of these amendments.

Withdrawn Objections to the Specification and Abstract

Applicants thank the Examiner for withdrawing the objection to the Specification.

Withdrawn Objection for Failure to Comply with Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Disclosures

Applicants thank the Examiner for withdrawing the objection for failure to comply with nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosures.

Withdrawn Claim Objection

Applicants thank the Examiner for withdrawing the objection to claim 59.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 29, 35, 44-56 and 58-61 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Sale *et al.* (U.S. Publ. No. 2005/0026246). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for reasons of record. Applicants thank the Examiner for his guidance provided during the personal interview conducted on May 22, 2009 regarding claim amendments that would be acceptable to him. Applicants have amended claims 29 and 60 to recite that the rate of hypermutation in the genetically modified lymphoid cells of the present invention occurs at a rate higher than the rate of mutation in the precursor lymphoid cell. Human and mouse cells undergo only hypermutation and not gene conversion as their primary mechanism for developing their immunological repertoire, as described in the specification at page 8, lines 27-28. Applicants have also amended claims 29 and 60 to recite that the lymphoid cell is capable of gene conversion prior to transfection in order to further clarify that the origin of the cell excludes human and mouse cells. Applicants have also amended the claims to identify the “genetically modified lymphoid cell” as containing the recited transgene, unlike its precursor lymphoid cell. Applicants respectfully note that the addition of the term “genetically modified” does not limit the lymphoid cell without the recited transgene in any way. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to the claims place them in order for allowance and request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejections of the claims, and to pass this application to issue. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (202) 942-6237 should any additional information be necessary for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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